

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR.

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PROGRESS IN CHINA.

A pamphlet entitled "The Solution of the Chinese Question" written by Sun Yat Sen, the Chinese reformer, who spent several months in Honolulu, has been extensively circulated and has attracted much attention in the Eastern States. It is strongly written and very condensed and lucid in expression. It dwells considerably on the relation of China to the United States and to the extension of commercial relations between the two nations.

With the conclusions of the pamphlet—that is the practical measures proposed—if it is not within the province of American journalism to deal. But the historical facts presented are of great interest and, except to a specialized few, probably unknown. It is brought to the notice of our people that the Manchu dynasty was established by the capture of Peking in 1644 through a coup de guerre in the midst of a great civil war, and has ever since maintained its authority by terrible massacres, by the extinction of ancient literature and by the destruction of all freedom of the press or among the people. It is claimed that now the entire number of Manchus, who are treated as Tartars, is less than five millions and that the Chinese proper number about four hundred millions and are virtually without a government except an iron and repressive autocracy.

Mr. Sun Yat Sen further insists that the Western nations are under a great misapprehension when they suppose the Chinese to be a seclusive people. He alludes to various facts in confirmation of the proposition that, prior to 1644, they maintained close relations with their neighbors and were very friendly to missionaries and to foreign traders. The Nestorian tablet at Si-An Fu is mentioned as a clear exposition of the work of missionaries as far back as the seventh century. The introduction and spread of the Buddhist faith, the conversion of a Prime Minister under the Ming dynasty to the Christian religion, and numerous other matters, are grouped together as demonstrating the statement.

It is circumstantially asserted that the policy of seclusion originated with the Manchu or Tartar dynasty; that the empire was closed to foreign trade; that missionaries were deported; that native Christians were massacred, and that emigration was prohibited. It is further declared that the Manchus can not reform the country because five millions are despotically controlling four hundred millions, and because the administration of the Government is not only fossilized but rotten. Ten specifications of wrongs inflicted under the Tartar rule are a condensed summary of leading points in our Declaration of Independence.

The most important element in this brochure, however, is its statements of the present condition of the Chinese people. "The whole nation," it is declared, "is ripe for revolution." To prove this references are made to the Welch uprising of 1900, to the coup de main which failed at Canton in 1902, to the steady growth and expansion of the Chinese Patriotic Society, which has existed for two hundred years and is now advancing with rapid strides, and to the trend of the Chinese press in the direction of democracy. It is claimed that eighty per cent of the Chinese population or three hundred and twenty millions, belong to this organization, which is known in the United States as the Chinese Free Mason Society. The existence of a cultured minority of genuine Chinese who are touched by the spirit of modern progress seems to be established.

The interest of the American people in the facts and suggestions thus brought together converges upon the possible results of the present war in the Orient. Two antagonistic policies are argued all over the world. On the one side the forcible partition of China, in order to drive the wedge of commerce into the heart of the empire, is advocated. On the other side the preservation of Chinese autonomy and independence, with the adoption of a liberal policy that would open the closed door to the competition and civilizing influence of the great powers is far more forcibly presented. It is this outcome of the struggle, to which, by treaties and by their internal conceptions of liberty and order, the United States, Great Britain and Japan are committed. The "open door" is the terse compression of the highest views entertained by the nations, and the story of Manchuria is regarded as plenary evidence of the danger of occupation of Chinese territory. In what manner the "open door" rightly understood is to be secured is a mystery of the future of the solution of which Mr. Sun Yat Sen has offered a theory that invites consideration.

If the Russians don't send their Black Sea fleet to the Orient where are they going to look for their seven more battleships?

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

The United States is becoming the land of universities. One does not need to count the seminaries which adopt the all-embracing title, nor the little colleges which bring contempt upon the good work they really do by trying to put themselves in the titular class of Yale, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Columbia, but dealing alone with the places of higher and varied learning in the United States the sum of possession promises great things in future.

A study of the figures of the American Almanac goes to show that of real universities enjoying incomes of \$500,000 and more, the United States now has twelve, and that the total number, all of them with very considerable incomes and doing sound work, is thirty-six. The whole collegiate roster is 420, representing in each case some grade of advance beyond the High School schedule of instruction.

A very hopeful sign of the times is that so many rich men are either endowing old schools of higher learning or founding new ones. But few instances appear where what the socialists call "plutocratic teaching" is the result of this philanthropy. The chief object of the men of millions seems to be to train up more efficient helpers for the world's work and to save their own names from the quick oblivion which comes to those who leave nothing for the public good when they pass away. That was the motive of Ezra Cornell, and he was one of many. Into this class Mr. Carnegie is soon to come; for not satisfied with building libraries for the people, he is joining with other rich men to found the University of Pittsburgh and give it an endowment as great as that enjoyed by some of the oldest and best of our greater schools of learning.

What a democracy needs most to save its institutions is a wide possession of trained minds. This may be spared in an autocratic monarchy, but it cannot be spared in a government of and by the people; for where the rulers are untrained, the government becomes a muddle, injustice and prejudice reign and the Strong Man, with sword and scepter, has to come to restore social order as Napoleon did to France. The license of the French revolution was that of ignorance gone mad with power. There is ignorance enough, God knows, flowing into this country from the underworld of Europe; and more and more men must be trained to deal with it and the problems it creates. To the universities the nation must turn for these; and in the multiplication of such great schools, lies the hope that, however huge the crisis, the nation will not have to turn in vain.

DISCIPLINING THE SOUTH.

The bill introduced by Senator Platt for reducing the South's representation in Congress has been foreshadowed by various Republican threats during the past few years. While it is a purely sectional measure it is a just one, because if the South will not permit a large part of its adult male population to vote it should lose the Congressmen whom it gained on the basis of that population.

Still the case of the South is very hard indeed. Congress, in the excitement of the war period, enfranchised a class of the South's population which needed centuries of civilization behind it to fit it for the use of the ballot. The act brought negroes into power over the whites and they turned the South into a hell. Finally, in self-defense, the whites came down upon the blacks and drove them from the polls. They would not have been fit white men had they done anything less. As a result the South became peaceful and in the main orderly and began to progress like the rest of the country. This progress, as everybody knows, would instantly stop if negro governments were to be restored. So strongly does the North realize this that it has long since ceased to demand political equality for the black man and it is careful itself never to elect one to office.

No doubt the South will feel much bitterness over the loss of Congressmen, but there seems to be no help for it. Under our political system any section of the country is entitled to as many Congressmen as it has votes to support; and when votes are eliminated "representation in Congress must be proportionately reduced"—we quote from the Republican national platform:—"as directed by the Constitution of the United States."

The only way out for the South seems to be to fill up its vast unoccupied spaces as the North did, with white immigrants from Europe. The South has never been favorable to this course, but there is no other way in which it can maintain a strong influence in the national councils and keep up with the American procession.

The chances are that the Port Arthur fleet was so badly damaged in its fight with Togo when it made its memorable sortie, that it was in no condition, when the 203 meter hill was captured by the Japanese, to leave the harbor. Otherwise Admiral Warden would have much to explain.

TRANSPORTATION ENOUGH.

We hope to see thousands of American farmers making use of the undoubted riches of Hawaiian soils and commanding the great market that undoubtedly exists on the mainland. It has been predicted in these columns that the day when they will do so will probably come—but that does not mean that the way to encourage them is to ignore all difficulties. The main difficulties, as pointed out over and over again and as realized in actual practical experience by men who have tried the proposition, are those of transportation, not merely trans-Pacific but inter-island as well.—Star.

This transportation bugaboo ought to be laid. Every island in this group is raising an enormous tonnage of sugar and getting all the transportation for it that is needed, and at a fair price. In fact, there is more transportation than sugar much of the time and steamers have to be laid off or sent elsewhere, and big ships like the Erskine M. Phelps tied up. Nothing would suit the carrying lines better than to have plenty of rubber, sisal, cocoa, tobacco, bananas, pineapples and cold storage fruits to take away from here along with the sugar. As such a trade grew the ships would be built or chartered to accommodate it, just as they were for the present island staple and for the booming Klondike trade.

The transportation difficulty is pure humbug.

Having learned that Congress pays the bills of contestants, Col. Laueka proposes to go there with a contest for Kuhl's seat, although he admits having no hope of forcing the Delegate out. Still a pleasant winter at the capital and all bills paid is not to be sneezed at.

Should the Baltic fleet arrive at Port Arthur it won't find much encouragement to enter in the looks of Admiral Wren's fleet.

Copies now on sale at all book stores of the Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist, a monthly magazine of forestry, entomology and agriculture, issued under the direction of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry. Price 10 cents a copy, \$1.00 per year by mail to any address. Subscriptions received at the Gazette office.

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